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DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1964

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1964 in accordance with Article 15(4) and (5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959 and Circular 1/65 of the Ministry of Health.

In 1964, the population of the Rural District again showed a small decrease. The number of live births was less than in the previous year and the number of deaths was greater than in 1963.

The Report contains a record of the work of the Public Health Department.

I acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this report and in the discharge of my duties throughout the year from Mr. F. Craze, Clerk to the Council; Mr. E.A.J. Reece, Financial Officer, and Mr. R.E. Moore, Public Health Inspector. Also I am indebted to Mr. W.H. Austin, Engineer and Manager to the Herefordshire Water Board, for information respecting the public water supplies.

In conclusion I wish to place on record my thanks for the support which has always been given me by the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health

6th October, 1965

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

CLERK TO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. R.E. Moore, C.R.S.I., M.P.H.I.A.

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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The District is entirely agricultural in character. There is much impressive scenery, especially in the west where the Black Mountains form a boundary.

Area (in acres)	=	84,532
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.64)	=	2,303
Rateable Value	=	£154,841
Sum represented by a penny rate	=	£601.0.0d.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	=	7,750
Area comparability factor (births)	=	1.13
Area comparability factor (deaths)	=	1.02

Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Births

Live births	=	128
Live birth rate per 1000 population (Crude)	=	16.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	=	7.0%

Stillbirths

Stillbirths	=	2
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	=	15.4
Total live and still births	=	130
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	=	7

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant deaths per 1000 total live births	=	54.7
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	=	58.8
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	=	Nil
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 live births)	=	31.3
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000 live births)	=	23.4
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	=	38.5

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of maternal deaths	=	Nil

Population

The 1961 census population of the Rural District was 7,874. At the 1951 census, the population was 8,760.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population for the Rural District was 7,750.

This population was accommodated in 2,303 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per house of 3.40. The natural increase of population for the year (the excess of live births over deaths) was 36.

Births

The total number of live births registered during the year was 128 (67 male and 61 female), giving a crude birth rate of 16.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The corrected live birth rate, using the comparability factor of 1.13 was 18.6 per 1,000 population. The number of illegitimate births was 9 (4 male and 5 female). The live births which occurred out of wedlock formed 7% of the total live births. The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1964 is 18.4 per 1,000 population. In 1963, there were 137 live births in the Rural District.

Stillbirths

Two stillbirths were registered during the year, two lessthan in 1963. The stillbirth rate was 15.4 per 1,000 total live and still births. The stillbirth rate for the year for England and Wales was 16.3 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the area was 92 (45 male and 47 female) after deduction of deaths of non-residents occurring within the District and the addition of the deaths of residents occurring outside the Rural District. The crude death rate was 11.9 per 1,000 estimated population. The comparability factor is 1.02 and the corrected death rate of the Rural District is 12.1 per 1,000 estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for 1964 is 11.3 per 1,000 population.

In 1963, there were 86 deaths in the Rural District.

The most frequent cause of death continued to be various forms of heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20) accounting for 31 deaths.

Cancer Deaths

All forms of cancer (headings 10, 11, 12 and 14) caused 15 deaths (8 males and 7 females), giving a corrected death rate of 2.0 per 1,000 ppln.

In 1963, there were 15 deaths attributed to cancer.

The cancer death rate for England and Wales in 1964 was 2.2 per 1,000 population.

Infantile Deaths

The number of infants under one year of age who died was seven (3 male and 4 female). The infant mortality rate for the Rural District was 54.7 per 1,000 live births and this rate for the year for England and Wales was 20.0 per 1,000 live births. In 1963 there were four infant deaths in the Rural District.

Deaths due to Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea

One death was attributed to gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.

Deaths due to Acute Notifiable Disease

Seven deaths were attributed to pneumonia (4 male and 3 female). Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death.

Deaths due to Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis during 1964. The death rate for England and Wales for 1964 from all forms of tuberculosis is 0.053 per 1,000 population.

Table of Deaths according to Cause and Sex

List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Persons
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	-	2	2
11.	" " lung, bronchus.	2	1	3
12.	" " breast.	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	3	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	1	1
16.	Diabetes.	-	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	5	8	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	6	7	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1
20.	Other heart disease.	10	7	17
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia.	4	3	7
24.	Bronchitis.	1	1	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	1	1
29.	Hypoplasia of prostate.	2	-	2
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	3	5	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents.	-	2	2
	All Causes	45	47	92

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The usual clinical laboratory investigations are made at the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford.

The following table shows the number of examinations carried out at the Public Health Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Milk (methylene blue test)	=	3
Milk (Phosphatase test)	=	2
Water (bacteriological)	=	51

In addition, 12 samples of effluent and 3 of sewage were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical examination.

Hospitals

The needs of the population are met by the hospitals in the City of Hereford. Accommodation for cases of infectious disease is available at Stretton Sugwas Hospital, and the County Hospital, Hereford.

Ambulances

The ambulances in the City of Hereford are used to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the District.

Clinics

A County Council Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Monday afternoon at Kingstone, and at Clifford on the first Wednesday in each month.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 50

No burials were carried out by the Council under this Section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47

No investigations were made under this Section during the year.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology

The whole of the area is formed of Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System, here represented by Upper and Lower Old Red Sandstones and Marls.

Water

All public water supplies in the Rural District with the exception of the public wells at Orcop and St. Margaret's, are supplied by the Herefordshire Water Board. The public wells remain under the control of the District Council. There are also some private piped water supplies in use. There are public standpipes in Clifford and Dorstone.

During the year, the Herefordshire Water Board completed the following extensions to public water mains:-

Great Brampton, Madley	-	90	yards	3"	dia.	main.
Madley, (Red Lion)	-	135	"	"	"	"
Dews Corner, Kingstone	-	130	"	"	"	"
Dean's Pool, Kingstone	-	310	"	"	"	"

The number of samples of water sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination was 51. Of these 25 were from public supplies, all except four were of good potable quality. There was difficulty in maintaining the quality of the water of the Coppice Well, Orcop and of the Longtown supply. Of 26 samples from other supplies eleven were found not to be of good potable quality.

Improvement in the quality of water supplies available in Peterchurch parish and in Orcop is needed.

Some difficulty was experienced in maintaining the quality of the water in Orcop from the Coppice Well.. This was eventually overcome.

During 1964 there was a shortage of water in the parishes of Longtown, Abbeydore and part of Peterchurch parish.

Drainage and Sewerage

There is a public sewerage system in the parishes of Madley and Kingstone draining to sewage disposal works at Coldstone Common. There is a short length of public sewer in Peterchurch parish.

The Ewyas Harold-Pontrilas Sewerage Scheme was completed and became operational at the beginning of the year.

Preparatory work for the Peterchurch and Longtown Sewerage Schemes continued and it is hoped that these schemes will be given approval during 1965. The Cusop Sewerage Scheme (jointly with Hay-on-Wye U.D.C.) was the subject of a public enquiry and amendments to the scheme were required.

During the year 12 samples of sewage effluent from the Kingstone sewage disposal works were sent for examination. Of these, 5 failed to comply with the standards of the Royal Commission. This is better than in 1963 although not yet satisfactory.

The chlorination of the sewage at the Madley ejector station and the effleunt at the Kingstone Disposal Works before final discharge continued. Chlorination at these two points has produced an improvement in the effluent but the real solution is the reconstruction of the Kingstone sewage disposal works.

Two samples of effluent from the Ewyas Harold Works complied with the Royal Commission standards.

Fifty-one new drains were tested by the Public Health Inspector. The number of drainage inspections made was 117. Owners of premises with primitive drains discharging directly into ditches and watercourses are being requested to provide modern drainage systems.

Closet Accommodation

It is estimated about 62% of the population have the use of water closets; about 18% still use pail closets and the remainder use privies. The number of new water closets constructed during the year, excluding conversions, was 20. In addition, 31 pail closets were converted to water closets. Every effort is made to convert conservancy closets where possible.

Public Cleansing

The Council provides a system of domestic refuse collection in the Rural District, with the exception of Cusop parish. The collection is carried out fortnightly by contract. Refuse disposal is by tipping at King Street Quarry, Ewyas Harold. It is estimated that about 80% of occupied dwellings are included in this collection. In Cusop parish a regular domestic refuse collection is made twice monthly by the Hay-on-Wye Urban District Council.

The Council does not carry out cleansing of cesspools and privies. Such installations on the Council's own property are cleansed when necessary by contractors, and 30 such cleansings were carried out during the year.

SHOPS, OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Registrations

Class of Premises	No. registered at end of year	No. inspected during year	Number employed
Offices	-	-	-
Retail Shops	2	-	16
Wholesale Shops Warehouses	4	-	23
Catering Establishments open to the public. Canteens	-	-	-
Fuel Storage Depots	1	-	1

Owing to insufficient staff, no inspections of registered premises were carried out during 1964. It is hoped the appointment of a public health inspector at the end of the year will enable this work to be carried out in 1965

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public on payment within the area.

Camping Sites - Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269 Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Camping causes no public health problem at the present time in the Rural District. The actual number of sites used for camping purposes during 1964 is not known. The maximum number of campers estimated to be within the District at any one time was 145.

No licences were issued by the Council with respect to camping sites under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The only sites known to be used for camping are exempt from this section of the Act.

One site was licensed under Section 3 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs during the year.

Hydrogen Cyanide Regulations (Fumigation of Buildings) 1951

No notices were received under Article 3 of these Regulations during the year.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Rural District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to Mr. R.E. Moore, Public Health Inspector to the Council for the following tabular statement, furnished under Article 25(20) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959:-

Inspections

Accumulations	=	1
Canteens	=	6
Control of Pests	=	15
Drainage	=	117
Drain Tests	=	51
Factories (with mechanical power)	=	1
Food Premises	=	46
Housing	=	103
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	=	2
Infectious Disease	=	1
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	=	10
Petroleum Stores	=	16
Refuse Tips	=	27
Schools	=	18
Sewage Disposal Works	=	277
Sewers	=	30
Shops	=	44
Unsound Food	=	3
Water Supply	=	52
Water Courses	=	5
Work Places (Building Sites)	=	350

Notices Issued

Informal	=	Nil
Statutory re Housing	=	Nil
Statutory under other Acts	=	Nil

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	=	1
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	=	30
Ditches cleared	=	2
Domestic baths provided	=	50
New drains provided	=	51
Defective roofs repaired	=	12
Defective eaves gutters repaired	=	20
Defective brickwork repaired	=	4
Defective windows repaired	=	14
Defective chimneys repaired	=	9
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	=	2
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	=	4
Closets repaired or renewed	=	15
Footpath channels cleared	=	3

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued)

New gullies provided	=	86
Inspection chambers repaired	=	1
Paving repaired	=	3
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	=	6
Staircases repaired	=	1
Soil pipes repaired	=	4
Sanitary fittings provided	=	4
Ventilation improved	=	15
Wells cleansed or repaired	=	1
Miscellaneous defects remedied	=	53

Petroleum Regulations

Two new licences permitting the storage of petroleum spirit were granted during the year. No storage installations were closed and there are now 39 installations registered with the Council.

The number of inspections made was 16.

Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

No inspections were made under this Act during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The following is a record of the work carried out during 1964:-

	Premises inspected	Total Mice	Infestations Rats Major	Infestations Rats Minor	No. of properties treated	Statutory Notices
Local Authorities' Properties	8	-	1	7	8	-
Dwelling Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other (including business) premises	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	-	1	7	8	-

The Council dispensed with the services of the part-time Rodent Control Officer formerly employed jointly with two other Local Authorities. This work was placed on the Public Health Inspector who is unable to devote adequate time to the work. Properties not owned by the Council are not inspected. Only 21 inspections were made. The Council does not adequately carry out the duties imposed by the Act.

Factories Acts 1937 - 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1964 for the Rural District of Dore and Bredwardine, in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	16	1	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	97	350	-	-
Total	113	351	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	-	-	-	1	-

During the year 51 workplaces were removed from the factories register. These workplaces are building sites - the number varies continually. One factory with mechanical power was registered for the the first time during the year.

Outworkers

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority.

SECTION D - HOUSING

During the year no Council houses were built, or under construction at the end of the year.

The number of Council houses occupied at the end of the year was 346. These are situated in 14 parishes; Kingstone with 155 houses on three estates having the greatest number for any parish.

Private owners completed 19 dwellings and had 17 under construction at the end of the year.

Temporary Dwellings

At the end of the year 13 temporary dwellings were still occupied at Kingstone, but these are owned by an adjoining Authority.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	=	103
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	=	3
3.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	=	84

Housing Act, 1957. Sections 16 and 17

No demolition or closing orders were made by the Council during the year.

Housing Act, 1957. Part IV - Overcrowding

At the beginning of the year five dwellings were known to be overcrowded. During the year four new cases of overcrowding were reported, so that at the end of the year nine cases remained. No cases were relieved during the year.

The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
Section 30

Eleven grants were made by the Council under this section for the improvement of dwellings.

These grants are discretionary grants and are made in suitable cases where the dwellings can be rendered fit.

Housing (Financial Provisions Act, 1958. Section 43
House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Section 3

Two loans were made by the Council to assist persons in house purchase.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Section 4

Four grants under this section were made by the Council during the year for the provision of standard amenities in dwelling houses.

Unfit Dwellings made Fit

Twentysix unfit dwellings were made fit.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The number of distributors registered with the Council at the end of the year under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations was 7.

There are no plants for the processing of milk situated in the Rural District, which is a specified area.

Ice Cream

No manufacture of ice cream is carried on within the Rural District.

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream was 40.

Vehicles from which the sale of ice cream is made continue to ply for trade, the inspection of these vehicles is somewhat difficult.

Shell Fish

The sale of occasional jars or tins of preserved shell fish appears to form the sale of shellfish within the Rural District. No action was necessary with regard to the sale of this food.

Water Cress

No action was necessary in connection with this food.

Meat
Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

There are now no slaughterhouses in use within the Rural District.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Four licences for slaughtermen were issued by the Council during the year. One of these permitted the holder to slaughter swine and sheep, and three permitted the slaughter of swine only.

Food Poisoning

No notifications of food poisoning were received during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

Three premises were registered with the Council under this Act.

Byelaws as to the Handling, etc. of Food

No infringement of these byelaws was detected.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

All premises were complying with the Regulations during the year. The number of inspections made in connection with registered food premises was 62.

Unsound Food

The following food was found to be unsound and surrendered:-

	Cause of unsoundness
28 lbs. of Currants and Sultanas.	Fermentation.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of acute notifiable disease in the Rural District was slightly higher than in 1963, but was low. Only 76 notifications were received compared with 66 in the previous year, giving a notification rate of 9.8 per 1,000 estimated population. Almost all notifications were in respect of measles. The Rural District continued to be free from diphtheria, poliomyelitis, dysentery and enteric fevers.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter in 1964

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	-	-	2
Measles	2	1	8	60	71
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	2
All Diseases	6	2	8	60	76

Measles

Seventyone notifications of measles were received compared with 66 during 1963, the final quarter of the year being the period of maximum incidence. The measles notification rate was 9.2 notifications per 1,000 estimated population. The parishes of Kingstone and Madley gave rise to 61 notifications; these two parishes contain 25% of the population of the Rural District - there were 14 cases in Madley and 47 in Kingstone. The number of families experiencing a single case was 26 and 16 experienced two or more cases. Both sexes were equally involved and most patients were children between 5 and 10 years of age. A clear history of contact with a case was obtained in 26 instances. Three patients had to be treated in hospital, the infection being somewhat severe.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain Age Groups - 1964

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	35+	45+	65+	All Ages
Measles	3	5	10	8	7	34	2	2	-	-	-	-	71
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	3	6	10	8	7	36	2	2	-	-	-	2	76

Whooping Cough

Only one case of whooping cough was notified.

Pneumonia

Only two notifications of pneumonia were received. Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as cause of death, seven deaths being due to pneumonia.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 39 cases of tuberculosis (31 respiratory and 8 non-respiratory) on the register. During the year no cases were added and no cases were removed from the register. At the end of the year 39 cases (31 respiratory and 8 non respiratory) remained on the register.

There were no deaths in the Rural District in 1964 attributed to tuberculosis.

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